



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CONTRACT FOR HAWAIIAN FISHERY RESEARCH LABORATORY AWARDED

Work will commence immediately on the construction of a fishery research laboratory on a site adjacent to the campus of the University of Hawaii at Honolulu, Albert M. Day, director of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service, declared today. A contract for construction of the building was awarded to K. Nagata on June 27. The architect is Guy N. Rothwell, of Honolulu.

This laboratory will house the shoreside research activities of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, authorized by Public Law 329, 80th Congress. The building, to conform with typical Hawaiian architecture, will be of hollow concrete block construction, two stories high, and will essentially surround a court with lanais facing the court. Wings to provide additional space will extend outward from either side of the front of the building. Similarly, shorter wings will extend from the rear. The floor area, including lanais, will approximate 16,000 square feet. The construction period is 180 days.

The laboratory will be well equipped with scientific apparatus for conducting extensive biological, oceanographic, technological, and other research work to supplement or parallel the exploratory and research activities conducted at sea by the three vessels of the program. Two of these vessels, the Henry O'Malley and Hugh M. Smith, which were Navy YP vessels of the 600 class, are now being converted for exploration and research work, in Pacific Coast shipyards with completion dates due in the early fall. Award of a contract for the third vessel, the John R. Manning, which is a purse seiner, was made on June 27, with a 180 day construction period.

The majority of the personnel of the scientific staff of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations have been employed and are now at work in both the organizational and operational phases of the program. With the delivery of the several vessels and completion of the laboratory, work will be greatly augmented in the investigation, exploration, and development of the high seas fisheries in the waters adjacent to Hawaii and westward throughout the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Through research and experimentation, Service investigators will develop and coordinate the basic information upon which a productive American fishing industry can be carried on in the Pacific. The yield of tuna, alone, from potential fisheries in the Central and Southwest Pacific, has been estimated to be worth from \$80 million to \$100 million.

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